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Soldier's memorial returns home

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Craig Cantrell 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

FORT CARSON, Colo. – The 4th Infantry Division honored a long standing military credo to never leave a fallen comrade behind when it returned the memorial plaque dedicated to Sgt. Amanda Pinson to her family in St. Louis Dec. 7.

Pinson was killed by indirect fire at Contingency Operating Base Speicher March 16, 2006 while assigned to the 101st Military Intelligence Detachment as a Signals Intelligence Analyst.

She was the first female Signals Intelligence Analyst killed in combat. Subsequently, officials named the COB Speicher military intelligence building "Pinson Hall," and affixed a plaque to memorialize her service and sacrifice.

The responsibility of caring for the plaque and honoring the memory of Sgt. Pinson was handed down and charged to every incoming G-2 sergeant major, explained Sgt. Maj. Mari Sidwell, 4th Inf. Div. Military Intelligence Sergeant Major.

The 4th Inf. Div. was the last unit to occupy the building before handing it and COB Speicher over to the Iraqis.

"When she (Sidwell) said I'm going to bring it to your house, I was like you've got to be kidding me," said Chris Andrews, Pinson's mother. "They're going to come all the way down here to bring the plaque? I was shocked."